



June 12, 2006

This Week In Correction

A weekly update of events in the Tennessee Department of Correction

COMMISSIONER'S UPDATE:



Commissioner Little spoke this week to staff and inmate representatives at **TCIP** and **DSNF** about the upcoming smoking ban.

Both facilities will help kick off the new state law in TDOC facilities.

"One critical issue is not only will tobacco products come out of our facilities but so will lighters and that means the fire hazard will go down," said Commissioner Little.

"We will have incentives to help you stop smoking if that's what you choose to do. No one is telling you to stop smoking, for your health we wish you would, this law says you can't smoke at our facilities and we want to make the transition easier for everyone," said Commissioner Little.



Staff at DSNF took part in a question and answers session with the Commissioner and voiced both concern and praise for the smoking ban.



Commissioner Little and staff attended the Criminal Justice Summit held this week in Memphis. “We had a very successful summit on Monday and a good representation of the local criminal justice community,” said Commissioner Little. “We received a number of good suggestions about possible programs and policies for Tennessee and we’re looking forward to the next round in Nashville on June 27 and Knoxville on June 29.”

Commissioner Little has appointed Lolie Jones, Security Monitor, as Acting Warden of **WCBC** over the next few weeks while Warden Malcolm Davis is away.

ON A MISSION:

A group of pre-service Correctional Officers were dispatched from **TCA** to **CBCX** this week to take part in a surprise “shake-down” of the annex. “The cadets were outstanding in their behavior, demeanor and thoroughness in which they performed their duties,” said **CBCX** Warden Kenneth Locke. The cadets graduated on June 16.



GLOCKED AND LOADED:

Seventeen institutional firearms instructors successfully completed instructor certification requirements for the .40 caliber Glock semi-automatic handgun.

TCA instructors David Jordan and Rick Thompson conducted the 32 hour course.



Participants included:

Brian Aldridge and Jeffrey Tester-**NECX**.

Billy Bain and Scotty Smith-**WCBC**.

David Bunch and Terry Caldwell-**BMCX**.

Stanley Dickerson and Jerome Tunstall-**MLRC**,

Tommy Gurien and Michael Reeves-**NWCX**.

Frank Heroux and Rodd Spaid-**TCIP**.

Bobby Mullins and Joseph Scott-**WTSP**.

Curtis Pennington and Lonas Roberts-**STSRCF**.

Kirk Sarago-**CBCX**.

NECX: A bake/lunch sale was held this week to benefit Karon Wyatt, the 6-year-old daughter of Kimberly Wyatt, STSR Nurse who died tragically.

More than six-hundred dollars was raised by staff and inmates.

Thanks to everyone. **NECX** continues to send its thoughts and prayers to all.



INGRID'S BIG ADVENTURE:

Commissioner Little and Deputy Commissioner Ray bid farewell to Ingrid Brown, Program Manager, Central Office.



Ingrid left TDOC this week to accept a position with the Project Edison Group. Human Resources Director Doris Medlin said, "I want to thank Ingrid for her dedication and hard work to maintain and elevate the image of the Department of Correction. Her active leadership and enthusiasm played a pivotal role in the success of the many projects that were assigned to her. During my time working with Ingrid, I found her to be a highly motivated, energetic employee with a strong desire to achieve and be successful. There were never problems, just opportunities for Ingrid. She will be missed."

MONEY, MONEY, MONEY, MONEY!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Department of Personnel has the Compression Pay Calculator up and running on their website. To utilize the calculator you must have the following information: Job title, Monthly salary, and Total years of state service as of 6/30/06. The website is located at www.tennessee.gov/personnel/. Click on the 2006/07 salary compression plan implementation button. You will then be directed to a page with a button labeled 2006/07 compression calculator. If you need information about your current information, contact your personnel officer, Kathy Hiller or Lisa Patton in Central Office.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:

The following was printed in the *Tennessean* by a reader:

To the Editor:

For all the years I have worked in Nashville, there seems to arise from time to time a periodic bashing of state workers. This time, their individual salaries are posted on the Internet for all to see. I perceive that many feel their tax dollars do nothing more than support an undeserving section of the workforce; therefore, public knowledge of their salaries is justified. I find that a little hard to understand.

To those who are perusing state workers' salaries via the Internet, I also invite them to peruse the state of Tennessee's official Web site and click on "Departments and Agencies." View each department in the state of Tennessee Web site, starting with the letter "A." You will see that the list starts with the Administrative Offices of the Courts, then the Aging and Disability Commission and so forth. Keep going through the alphabetical list, and make particular note of the many services provided by those different departments and agencies.

Which area within state government could we do without? Would we want to do without the Department of Health, the Department of Safety or any of the many other departments that strive daily to make lives better for Tennesseans?

Perhaps those who get on this kick of bashing state workers should concentrate on doing their own jobs a little better. Then maybe they would appreciate not only themselves but others as well.

Laurel Johnson, Franklin

TATER' PICKING TIME AT WTSP:

The West Tennessee State Penitentiary garden produced a a huge potato patch this year that if it were placed row to row, would measure seven miles long.

WTSP supplies potatoes to **NWCX** and **MLRC**.





Sgt. Thomas Shell, Officer Robert Moffatt and Officer Kevin Haislip show some examples of the crop.

PROFILES IN CORRECTION: The Untold Story



James Brasfield, CO, TPFW

If there is one thing to know about CO Brasfield, it is that he is his father's son. Perhaps, no single person has had as much influence on Brasfield as his dad. As we celebrate Father's Day, meet a fellow employee who hopes the apple doesn't fall far from the tree.

1. Describe your position with TDOC.

"My job is to track all inmates. I have to always know what housing unit they are in, what custody level, where they are, and when they're outside the institution. It gets to be stressful; you carry it home with you every now and then."

2. After 4 years at TPFW, what is the best part of your job?

"I've learned a lot since I've been here. I had never been to a prison before. On the outside, you think it's an easy job, but once on the inside you learn its not. I never used computers before and now I'm more knowledgeable of them."

3. What do you do in your time away from TPFW?

"I work out, jog a lot. I'm on a bowling league now. I did play softball but I was injured. I just like to stay in shape. Its good for your health and you meet a lot of new people."

4. How did you end up in Tennessee?

"I grew up in Michigan in a small town called New Buffalo. I moved to Tennessee 5 years ago to follow my parents. They are originally from here, when they retired, they came back home so I came down a few years later."

5. Who has had the biggest influence on your life?

"My parents, they're sort of different. My Dad (James D. Brasfield) worked hard. He always had the attitude not to let anyone run over you, but help somebody along the way."

6. What makes your Dad so special?

"He supported me on everything I did. He let me make my mistakes and he'd correct me afterwards. He coached me in baseball, went to all my football games, all sporting events and basically helped me improve in all aspects of **life**. He made me want to do things right and the best I can. He's always there for me. He would take time off work just to do something that helps me. "

Trivia: Ofc. Brasfield's grandfather (pictured right) was the premier comedian on the grand ole opry. Rod Brasfield was posthumously inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame in 1987.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK:

"The father of a righteous man has great joy; he who has a wise son delights in him."

-Proverbs 23:24

"If you don't know where you're going, any road will take you there."

-Submitted by Pamela Lujan, Administrative Services Assistant, Central Office